



# MEETING MINUTES

Jersey City Environmental Commission  
City Hall – 280 Grove Street, Jersey City NJ 07302  
Gerald F. Nicholls, Chair  
Sara K. Schultzer, Vice Chair

**Meeting:** General Meeting

**Date / Location:** 16 September 2014 – 6:30 p.m.  
Caucus Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 280 Grove Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302

**Attendees:**

<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>Public Participants</b>
Tanya Marione-Stanton	Brigid Calahan
Elizabeth Phillips-Lorenzo	Becky Ofrane
Mario Verdibello	JeanMarie Hartman
Gerry Nicholls	
Michelle Luebke	
Bryant Holt	
Sara Schultzer	
Gabriel Ristorucci	

**Prepared By:** Gerry Nicholls

**Date Prepared:** 19 September 2014

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## ROLE CALL

Seven of nine commissioners were present, which constituted quorum. Commissioner Latham was absent and one commissioner position remains unfilled.

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

No subcommittee reports were made.

## NEW BUSINESS

The following new business items were discussed:

### Rain Barrel Initiative

Two partnering events to with Sustainable Jersey City (SJC) and Hudson County Incinerator Authority (HCIA) were discussed. Commissioner attendance was requested for both events, which are Saturday - 9/20/2014 9:00 - HCIA Event at Lincoln Park and Saturday - 9/27/2014 9:00 - HCIA Event at PS 17.

### Sustainability Conference

The 10/1/2014 Jersey City 2014 Annual Sustainability Conference was discussed and commissioner attendance was requested. Secretary Marione-Stanton is helping to organize this event for the City. Secretary Marione-Stanton provided a flier and agenda for the conference,

which is attached to these Meeting Minutes. Commissioners Verdibello and Holt indicated they would attend this conference.

## **Shade Tree Inventory**

Solicitation 1405-002 Technical Assistance for Jersey City Shade Tree/Green Infrastructure Inventory was awarded to the Green Infrastructure Center (GIC) in early September. GIC has started data gathering and will attend the next Environmental Commission Meeting. Commissioners will be prepared to review materials in advance of the next meeting and engage GIC during the meeting.

## **Shade Tree Commission**

A citizen's group is looking to restart the Shade Tree Commission in Jersey City. The Shade Tree Commission was established by City Ordinance 05-075, adopted on June 22, 2005. Per information provided by the City Clerk's Office, there are no appointments to this commission since the ordinance was adopted. The commission is not constituted. The Environmental Commission is in support of reinvigorating the Shade Tree Commission.

## **Environmental Resource Inventory**

The Mayor's Office coordinated with Rutgers University to partner with Professor JeanMarie Hartman to create an Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) as part of her Intermediate Landscape Architecture I. More detail is provided on this under General Public Participation.

## **Hudson County New Jersey Tree Foundation "Right-Tree, Right-Location" Workshop**

Commissioner Verdibello brought up this work shop. He plans to attend and other commissioners were invited to attend.

## **CLOSING REMARKS AND OTHER BUSINESS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Chair Nicholls encouraged commissioners to attend community meetings to voice the Environmental Commission purpose and objectives and looks for ways to collaborate. Chair Nicholls will attend the 10/9/2014 - Village Neighborhood Association Meeting.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Four members of the public attended the meeting. Two offered comments and posed questions. Ms. Ofrane commented on providing composting information to the Mayor's Office and her interest in the Environmental Commission. Ms. Calahan inquired on the Shade Tree Inventory.

Professor Hartman facilitated a discussion on the ERI and how she will integrate the ERI into her class Intermediate Landscape Architecture I. Secretary Marione-Stanton provided a course syllabus, which is attached to these Meeting Minutes. Professor Hartman showed an example of a similar work product a prior class produced. For the ERI to be successful, data layers will be needed from the City—the pending Shade Tree Inventory data layers should also be provided. Professor Hartman facilitated feedback from commissioners on what they consider



environmental assets that Jersey City offers; this information will inform the students' projects. Work on the ERI is already underway with students' performing visits to the City; Professor Hartman plans to attend a teleconference tomorrow with members of city agencies.

Professor Hartman indicated commissioners are welcome to attend internal presentation sessions at her class. She also indicated she and some of her students could present the final product during the January or February meeting.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Chair Nicholls to coordinate commissioner attendance at various upcoming events.
2. Commissioner Ristorucci to coordinate website updates and upgrades.
3. Secretary Marione-Stanton and Commissioner Phillips-Lorenzo will be points of contact to Professor Hartman and the ERI.
4. The 2015 meeting calendar must be drafted.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next Environmental Commission is scheduled for 14 October 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Caucus Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 280 Grove Street. There is no November meeting scheduled.

